



Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** primary care is first-contact, comprehensive care provided to people with a wide range of health concerns, and can encompass various medical specialties such as family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, psychiatry, and others; and
- WHEREAS,** primary care practice includes the efforts of interdisciplinary health care teams involving professions as diverse as: allopathic and osteopathic medicine, pharmacy, nursing, dentistry, optometry, public health, physician assistants, social work, and physical and occupational therapy; and
- WHEREAS,** primary care practitioners provide usual source of preventive health care services and reliable care for patients with both acute and chronic diseases while seeing patients on a regular basis, in an effort to deliver adequate services and ensure quality of care; and
- WHEREAS,** traditionally, primary care practitioners offer the most cost-effective health care available – a potential solution for the millions of uninsured and underinsured Americans. Studies have shown that carefully coordinated efforts to increase the number of primary care practitioners will dramatically decrease the overwhelming number of Americans who go without access to quality healthcare every year; and
- WHEREAS,** the 2005 National Primary Care Week: Breaking Down Barriers: Health Literacy in Community Health has been established by the next generation of America's health care professionals; and
- WHEREAS,** the 2005 National Primary Care Week aims to introduce health professions students to the importance of community-responsive primary care; provide them with information about primary care and the range of career opportunities; encourage their collaboration as members of future primary health care teams; demonstrate the commitment of health professions schools and students to meet the need for primary care practitioners; and work to reduce problems in healthcare access experienced by underserved populations in the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** the 2005 National Primary Care Week is focusing on the Department of Health and Human Services' Health People 2010, a national prevention initiative that identifies opportunities to improve the health of all Americans, organized under the broad approaches of health promotion, health protections, and preventive services; and
- WHEREAS,** during the week of October 16th to October 22nd, 2005, health professions students nationwide will host and participate in special educational programs, symposia, workshops, lectures, community outreach, and health fairs that promote primary care.
- NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim the week of October 16-22, 2005, as the**

2005 NATIONAL PRIMARY CARE WEEK – BREAKING DOWN BARRIERSHEALTH LITERACY IN COMMUNITY HEALTH

in Louisiana, and encourage citizens to recognize the importance of general practitioners and primary care providers and their contributions to healthcare delivery and society.

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set
my hand officially and caused to be affixed the
Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the
Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this
the 6th day of June*

A.D., 2005

Kathleen Babineaux Blanco
Governor of Louisiana



*Attest By
The Governor*

Joseph Keith
Secretary of State